



# Site Investigation

229469



## Jewett White Lead Company Site Port Richmond, Staten Island, New York

Community Update

November 2009

### Results

In early June, EPA collected soil samples from the Port Richmond Community. Soil samples were also collected from the backyards of 13 homes located immediately next to the site.

Lead was found at an average concentration of 549 parts per million (ppm) in the top soils of the backyards. This level of lead is higher than the EPA screening level of 400 ppm for lead in residential high use bare soil areas.

The average concentration of lead in the six-block area closest to the site is 666 ppm, while the average concentration of lead seen in the background area is 788 ppm.

Lead is commonly found in soil and dust in the urban environment because, in the past, it was used in paint, gasoline and other products, and in former industrial practices.

### Public Meeting

EPA will be holding a public meeting to discuss the results of the off-site sampling and the additional "fingerprinting" analysis to trace the sources of lead in the environment. The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th at 7 p.m. at the Port Richmond High School.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing this notice to update you regarding the progress made at the Jewett White Lead Company site.

### Site Investigation

EPA collected soil samples in the Port Richmond Community during the week of June 8th to June 12th to determine if the lead found in soils at the former Jewett White Lead Company site located at 2000 Richmond Terrace (on the corner of Richmond Terrace and Park Avenue) has affected the surrounding neighborhood.

Elevated levels of lead were found in the community. EPA conducted tests using a sort of "fingerprint" that would tell us if Jewett was a significant contributing source to the lead levels. Based upon our findings, it does not appear that Jewett was a significant contributing source to the lead levels found in the backyards or in the community. The "fingerprint" from the Jewett site and the "fingerprint" from the surrounding community are different, indicating that most of the lead comes from other sources, including lead-based paint, past industrial activities, and lead left over in the environment from when leaded gasoline was still in use.

EPA will conduct a cleanup on the former Jewett property, but will not be taking a cleanup action in the backyards or the surrounding community. Despite the fact that our testing does not show a link between the Jewett lead and the backyard lead, EPA remains committed to working with our local and state partners to identify other programs that can help the community reduce exposure to the elevated levels of lead.

### Cleanup Activities

Additional sampling and analysis is planned for Spring 2010 to collect the data necessary to determine the cleanup needed to address lead at the site. It is anticipated that cleanup of the site will begin in late 2010. Precautions will be taken during all on-site activities to ensure the public is protected. EPA will continue to keep the community informed of current and future on-site cleanup activities.

### Background on Jewett White Lead

The site is an unpaved vacant lot. It was formerly used by John Jewett & Sons White Lead Company to manufacture white lead during the period of 1839 to 1898. National Lead Industries purchased the business and operated at the location for several

**Any Questions:**

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**For Health Related Questions:**

Chris Duroski  
New York State Department of Health  
800-458-1158 ext. 27860

New York City Department of Health  
and Mental Hygiene  
Dial 3-1-1 and ask for the Lead  
Poisoning Prevention Program

Visit EPA's Web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/  
removal/jewettwhitelead](http://www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/removal/jewettwhitelead)

EPA Region 2 has established a liaison  
as a point of contact for concerns and  
questions about the Superfund program.  
The agency has established a 24-hour,  
toll free number for the public to call.  
The liaison for Region 2 is George  
Zachos. He can be reached toll free at  
(888) 283-7626 or at (732) 321-6621.

Decades. Between 1949 and 1990, various businesses operated at the location including Sedutto's Ice Cream factory.

**Lead-Based Paint Hazards**

The presence of lead-based paint on the inside or outside surfaces of a home can be a significant source of lead exposure to residents, especially children if the paint is peeling or in poor condition. EPA recommends that residents have their homes tested for the presence of lead-based paint.

**Simple Steps to Reduce Your Lead Exposure**

EPA and the State and City health departments recommend that the following steps be followed to reduce your exposure to lead:

- Keep children away from all bare soil areas, and cover any bare soil areas that may be on your property. Plant grass seed or place sod on the bare soil. Maintaining any grass already present in your yard will also prevent contact with the soil.
- Have all children between the ages of six months and six years tested regularly for lead.
- Adults and children should frequently wash hands and face, especially after they come inside from the yard, and before eating or drinking.
- If you are a smoker, wash your hands before smoking.
- Remove shoes at the door to prevent tracking in dirt.
- Use a damp mop and cloths to keep floors, children's toys and other surfaces clear of dust.
- Don't let your children play on the lawn right after you have mowed or raked it, because soil could be on the grass clippings or on the material that you raked.

**Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure While Gardening**

If you have a garden or plan to have a garden, you can take the following steps to minimize your exposure to the lead present in the soils:

- If the soil is acidic, add lime to the garden to reduce the acidity. Acidic soil increases the amount of lead available to plants;
- Add organic matter such as compost, manure, or phosphate containing fertilizers to garden soil. The organic matter binds lead and reduces the amount available to plants;
- Discard the outer lower leaves of leafy crops and peel all root crops;
- Thoroughly wash vegetables before eating to help remove any dirt that may contain lead. Adding a little vinegar to the wash water helps remove lead more effectively.